



**San Francisco**  
Research Enhancement Award Program  
Director: Mary-Margaret Chren, MD  
**Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2008**

The Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center (SFVAMC) was funded in 2002 to increase Health Services Research (HSR) capacity at the Medical Center by supporting research that will improve the quality of health care for older veterans. The REAP provides resources for studies and their administration, provides a cohesive research environment for researchers from multiple clinical and methodological backgrounds, and functions as a unified voice for HSR&D at the SFVAMC. During the initial funding period (2002 to 2006), the objective of the REAP were to provide direct resources for studies to improve care for older veterans, especially those with complex comorbid conditions, to enhance support and mentoring for junior HSR&D faculty, to improve facilities for HSR&D, to increase direct support of investigators and trainees in HSR&D, to develop and obtain increased grant funding for studies to improve care for older veterans, and to negotiate and promote increased support from institutional partners. Building from this foundation, REAP HSR&D investigators increased the number of successful applications for VA HSR&D awards, including both Investigator Initiated Awards and Career Development Awards, increased the number of high impact publications, and increased the number and range of services provided to the VA locally and nationally.

In 2006, we competed successfully for a renewal of funding for the REAP. Phase II of REAP (2006-2011) represents substantial refocusing of our direction and goals. Our revised long-range objective is to develop the REAP into a national resource for research to improve the care of veterans with complex comorbid conditions. This new direction builds on the incremental progress made during Phase I of the REAP and leverages the strengths of our SFVAMC investigators. Phase II REAP goals address key health services issues that are on the horizon with the aging of Veterans currently cared for in VA Health Services and with the anticipation of new OEF/OIF Veterans entering the system.

During 2008, the REAP continued its trajectory of growth and progress toward our Phase II objectives. The SFVAMC and the Northern California Institute for Research and Education (NCIRE) have continued to provide substantial resources. These include continued expansion of on-campus space for HSR&D investigators and improvement in IT infrastructure beyond what was provided in 2007. Substantial progress was achieved in building a closer relationship with the SFVAMC Research and Development office, including new participation in the Research Executive Committee and increased participation on the Research and Development Committee. Finally, through the recruitment and hiring of Aysha Ali, MBA, REAP Administrative Manager, the REAP realized a key objective. Ms. Ali has extensive experience with federal administration and fiscal management. She is working closely with our Research and Development Office to provide strong pre- and post-award management of VA projects.